

Monitoring Committee Report

February 17, 2006

The Monitoring Committee met on 01/06/06 (conference call) and 02/16/06. These meetings were appropriately posted in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Annual Report of Child Complaint and Due Process: In an attempt to develop a model for this annual report, at its 01/06/06 meeting, the Committee developed a list of data points which it would like to see in an annual report(see attached) and shared this with DESE. On 02/16/06, DESE provided a packet of materials in response to this request. DESE was not able to provide all the data requested by the Committee. After cursory review, the Committee has concerns about the accuracy of the data provided, sheer amount of data provided, presentation of data in a meaningful format, and comparability of data.

Child Complaint Process After the SFY 2003 reporting of child complaint and due process data, the SEAP had questions about whether the child complaint process had a review/appeals step. After checking with other states and OSEP, it was determined there was no prohibition to either a child complaint investigation review or findings appeal step. DESE then suggested a satisfaction survey. This survey has been distributed since November 2005 to all those parties who received findings since the beginning of SFY 2006. Examining preliminary responses, the Committee is questioning whether a survey alone will address the issue. Troublesome factors noted after reviewing preliminary results include a 3 to 1 ratio of responses from LEAs over parents, parent responses may be skewed, the ratio of the number of due process hearing requests to child complaints seems disproportionate, and the need for meaningful quantitative as well as qualitative data

Monitoring: DESE provided the first annual report of Focused Monitoring in August 2005 and held a stakeholder's meeting on 4th Cycle Monitoring on 02/01/06. It is the Committee's understanding that Focused Monitoring will be an emphasis of 4th Cycle Monitoring. The SEAP has previously identified priorities of *elementary achievement* and *post secondary outcomes*. DESE is redesigning the 4th Cycle Monitoring process to focus monitoring efforts. .

PLANS

1. Thoroughly review child complaint and due process data provided by DESE and settle upon an accurate and meaningful format for an annual report.
2. Request a quantitative and qualitative report of results from the Child Complaint Satisfaction Survey.
3. To address the concern with skewed results, explore other means of measuring satisfaction with the child complaint process.
4. Assure the 4th Cycle Monitoring focuses on an appropriate emphasis such as SEAP priorities - *elementary achievement* and *post secondary outcomes*